



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

had a fair fighting chance, to show its inestimable value. As well try to convince a fireman that water won't put out a fire as to show me that antitoxin does not cure diphtheria.

Smallpox is cared for along the same lines as scarlatina or other eruptive skin affections, except that it is quarantined more strictly, if that be possible. Cleanliness, fresh air and sanitation make its discomforts less annoying, its contagion less virulent; while rest, careful feeding and attentive nursing modify its attack, so that after six weeks most sufferers leave less scarred than scared from their experience.

In enumerating and considering the means whereby victory has been won and is now maintained in the conquest of contagion, the work of the trained nurse is an asset of prime importance. On the smokeless firing line of pestilence, amid the unavoidable dangers which lurk in such an environment, she is always found, just as you find her today near the battlefields and in the military hospitals of stricken Europe, doing her duty in a quiet, unnoticed way without applause, while sacrificing most of the ordinary pleasures which afford other people happiness in a busy, workaday world. In the rôle of the visiting school nurse or at the bedside of the malignantly sick, where every breath and each task is carried on in an atmosphere filled with invisible, bacterial shrapnel, she is alert, resourceful, untiring in her efforts to counteract the inroads of disease. At any moment she may be attacked with diphtheria, scarlet fever or smallpox and becoming dangerously ill, as many have, even die as I have seen them do; yet never once have I known one to shrink or shirk in promptly giving skilful, tender care to any case, even the most malignantly infectious, whenever an emergency has summoned her to battle desperately for a life. Therefore tonight I esteem it a rare honor to have had this privilege of addressing these cursory remarks on contagion to so representative a body of trained and helpful women.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE IN INDUSTRY¹

By FANNIE KERSNER, R.N.

Rochester, N. Y.

In considering the problems which an industrial nurse has to face one must remember that the nurse in industry has a comparatively new field before her. Very little precedent has been established in this line of work. It is, therefore, necessary for the industrial nurse of the pres-

¹ Read at a meeting of the Alumnae Association of the Rochester Homeopathic Hospital, August, 1914.

ent period to help blaze the trail for the general public health nurse of the future.

One will hardly find two industrial nurses who have the same work to do. The up-to-date employer is usually broad-minded and able to see that contented workmen mean better work. He is willing to do what he can to better the condition of his employees if not at too great a sacrifice. However, he is ignorant of what method to pursue in accomplishing this end, so he calls in the industrial nurse to help him carry on this so-called welfare work. One nurse may be employed by a large corporation with immense wealth and a complete service department; her work here will be limited. Another nurse may be employed by a firm with limited means but giving her a free hand to carry on her work as she sees best. There is the employer who uses his service worker as an advertisement or as a part of the well-oiled machinery to secure greater material gain. Another nurse may work for the philanthropic employer who has the general welfare of his employees at heart and thinks of them, not as the mere instruments of his gain, but as co-partners in his daily work. Here the industrial nurse will find her widest field for labor. Wherever she is placed, whatever line of work she is called upon to do, the industrial service worker must acquaint herself with her own particular surroundings. The different kinds of work; the kind of labor needed and the kind used; the laborer's environment and his pay. She must learn both the requirements of employer and employee and the best way to meet them.

She will find that her greatest problem will be how best to carry herself so as to form a perfect stepping stone between employer and employee without either one necessarily being aware of her efforts in this direction. She must learn to acquire infinite tact and wisdom; to be fair in her judgments; to make every allowance for her weaker brother or sister; to so love humanity that she may help, in this day of industrial strife to break down the barriers between capital and labor and bring employer and employee into a closer and more human relationship.

I may be over-enthusiastic, but, from my own experience, I feel that to one entering this field of labor there is given a wonderful amount of power for the finest kind of public service. She who enters such a field may look for but little thanks or gratitude; her disappointments will be many, her labor hard, but her reward must be in the thought that she is helping to educate a future generation to a knowledge of a finer sense of public responsibility.

The question is asked, "What are some of the problems the industrial nurse meets in her daily rounds?" I can only say every problem

with which the present generation is struggling comes before the industrial nurse. In her own particular line of work she will find innumerable problems, first, the teaching of sanitation and hygiene along with the most elementary principles of physiology. There is the great problem of tuberculosis and other contagious diseases to which the industrial worker is so often a prey. She will meet syphilis and gonorrhea with a whole train of loathsome accessories, such as vice and immorality. She will come in contact with every kind of medical, surgical, mental and industrial disease. She must teach the value of prophylactic dentistry. Industrial workers generally feel that doctors and dentists are their greatest foes and are to be avoided as much as possible. It is quite a problem to overcome this fear. She will meet all the diseases of children. In an effort to dispel the degenerate outlook on the question of motherhood sometimes found, she will have to do some pre-natal and infant welfare work. She will meet with the drug fiend and the poor dupe of the patent medicine habit, the medical quack and the incompetent mid-wife. Indeed, where the nurse daily comes in contact with both sexes of all ages between fourteen and seventy, of every nationality, the hard workers, the shiftless and the useless, the poor, the middle class and the rich, those struggling in the battle between old-world ignorance and new-world knowledge, you can see with what medical problems she will probably have to cope.

The industrial nurse will meet each day that much-mooted question of the proper handling of sex hygiene knowledge and she will not be able to pass it by. The question of how best to handle those in need of charity she will often be called upon to answer. For it is the industrial worker who so frequently is the recipient of charity when his last dollar has been expended through sickness, lack of work or death. It is here the industrial nurse will come in contact with the harm worked by the usurious loan shark. Juvenile labor and the place her own sex holds in industry must also meet her eye. She must familiarize herself with the laws of her state on these important questions, in fact with all laws pertaining to industry and industrial workers.

Of employment and non-employment she will see a great deal. Here there will be many questions for her to settle in her own mind and in the minds of others. She must meet the problem of immigration with its attendant good and evil, for it is the immigrant who is doing most of the hard labor in modern industry. She will surely come in contact with the great liquor problem, sometimes in the chief wage earner of the family, often in its resultant effects on the innocent offspring, mental deficiency and hopeless deformity. The handling of the problem of recreation for the industrial worker and how much industry can do for him in this respect, is no mean one.

These are but few of the problems before the industrial nurse. In fact I know of no up-to-date or old-world problem that the industrial nurse, as a servant of the public, will not be called upon to face. Her method of meeting these problems must be to treat each individual case as a human being in need of help. She must learn to call in all the aid modern society offers her in its efforts of regeneration. She may make many mistakes, but there need be no absolute failures, for if she can do nothing else, love and sympathy, with a fine understanding of our common brotherhood, go a long way toward alleviating society's wrongs and solving life's weary problems.

This may give the impression that the work of the industrial nurse is made up of hardships and the solving of difficult problems but in meeting the problems of humanity, one comes in contact with human beings who are full of joy as well as sorrow; the nurse makes friendships and sees wonderful dreams come true and often finds her efforts rewarded. The difficult problems will often be easily solved and there is considerable pleasure and joy in solving them. The pleasure one finds in helping these hard-pressed workers to come into their own, well repays one for the effort she has put forth.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES

By A. S. BLUMGARTEN, M.D.

Lecturer to the Training School, German Hospital, New York; author of "Materia Medica for Nurses," etc.

(Continued from page 290)

Dissociating Power of Various Drugs. The degree with which any drug will dissociate into its ions, even in water, varies with the complexity of its chemical structure. Thus, the rather simply constructed inorganic substances dissociate more rapidly into their ions than the more complex organic substances. For example, magnesium sulphate dissociates more rapidly than phenacetine or any of the other coal tar drugs.

DISSOCIATION AND ABSORPTION

From the foregoing discussion we have seen that medicines, when given in fluids or when dissolved in the gastric or intestinal juices, become dissociated into ions. This fact has important bearings upon the absorption of the remedy and upon its subsequent effects after it enters the blood stream.